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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 KATHMANDU 001721

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SA/INS AND DS/IP/NEA  
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS USAID/DCHA/OFDA  
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS PEACE CORPS HQ  
USAID FOR ANE/AA GORDON WEST AND JIM BEVER  
MANILA FOR USAID/DCHA/OFDA  
LONDON FOR POL/GURNEY  
TREASURY FOR GENERAL COUNSEL/DAUFHAUSER AND DAS JZARATE  
TREASURY ALSO FOR OFAC/RNEWCOMB AND TASK FORCE ON TERRORIST  
FINANCING  
JUSTICE FOR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL/DLAUFMAN  
NSC FOR MILLARD  
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISA LILIENFELD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PINS](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [PGOV](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NEPAL'S MAOIST INSURGENCY, AUGUST 30-  
SEPTEMBER 5

SUMMARY

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1. Sixty-three Maoists and fifteen security personnel died in clashes this week. The Government of Nepal (GON) imposed curfews on twenty-three of Nepal's districts in an attempt to maintain law and order. Pyar Jung Thapa, Chief of Army Staff, pledged to maintain peace in Nepal and declared that the brutal killings committed by the Maoists only strengthened the army's resolve to defeat them. Maoist Supremo Prachanda, issued a press statement on September 3 criticizing the Ambassador for meeting with the various political parties and for interfering in Nepal. Devendra Raj Kandel, former minister, survived an assassination attempt by Maoists on August 29. Maoists then killed ten civilians, and abducted eight others. Police in India reportedly arrested six gang members on September 2 who allegedly were attempting to sell weapons to Maoists from Nepal. The international community and human rights organizations condemned the Maoists' return to violence. End summary.

ATTACKS ON SECURITY FORCES ESCALATE

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2. Armed clashes between security forces and the insurgents during the week resulted in the deaths of fifteen security personnel, sixty-three Maoists and two civilians caught in the crossfire. Sixteen security personnel sustained injuries. On August 30 clashes in the eastern districts of Udaypur, Sindhuli and Sarlahi left seven Maoists and two civilians dead, and six security personnel seriously injured. Also on that day, a police constable was murdered in Kapilvastu District. Fighting continued on August 31 with a Maoist ambush on a police post in Rupandehi which left four policemen dead. A police sub-inspector was killed by rebels in Kailali, while separate clashes in the same area left three Maoists dead. Sixteen Maoists and three security personnel were also killed in clashes on August 31 in the western districts of Surkhet, Rolpa and Dailekh.

3. The eastern region of Nepal saw more violence on September 2 with another Maoist attack on a police post in Siraha, in which two policemen were killed and four others injured. Two Maoists were also killed. On that same day, eleven Maoists were killed and six security personnel injured in two separate clashes in Morang District. Maoist ambushes in Khotang, Tanahun and Lamjung left eleven insurgents and one RNA soldier dead.

4. A Maoist commander in Taplejung was killed by security forces on September 3 after he reportedly tried to hurl socket bombs at personnel on patrol. Four more insurgents were killed that same day in Khotang. Maoists attacked another police post in Bardia District on September 3. One policeman was killed and five are missing. Another policeman was killed in Baitadi District.

5. On September 4, insurgents shot and killed a Royal Nepal Army (RNA) soldier at a checkpoint in Chitwan, and eleven rebels were killed in separate incidents in the eastern districts of Ramechhap, Udayapur and Taplejung, and in the western districts of Surkhet and Dadelhdhura.

NEPAL UNDER CURFEW; RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED

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6. Twenty-three districts out of Nepal's seventy-five are now under a dusk till dawn curfew. Citing security

concerns, the GON issued the curfew to "safeguard lives and property." The announcement on state radio reportedly also said that security personnel had been ordered to shoot anyone defying the curfew.

17. On September 1, the GON announced a twenty-two day ban on public meetings and demonstrations in several cities, including the Kathmandu Valley. An unnamed cabinet member reportedly said the prohibition law was implemented in order to maintain law and order.

#### RNA DETERMINED TO END MAOISTS' TERROR

18. On September 2, Pyar Jung Thapa, Chief of Army Staff, said the Royal Nepal Army (RNA) was determined to establish peace in Nepal, and ready for any necessary action against the rebels. Speaking to senior army officials, Thapa declared that the Maoists had shown their true identity by resorting to abductions, murder and extortion. He said the morale of the RNA would not be affected by the selective murders of security personnel by Maoists, but that the brutal killings only strengthened the army's resolve to defeat the Maoists. Thapa accused the rebels of using the ceasefire to reorganize and rearm, but asserted that the RNA is prepared after increasing and modernizing its own military strength.

#### PRACHANDA BLASTS "IMPERIALIST MONSTERS"

19. Maoist Supremo Prachanda, issued a press statement on September 3 castigating the Ambassador and the British Ambassador for their August 31 meeting with Nepali Congress (NC) leader Giriya Prasad Koirala. Prachanda condemned both Ambassadors for urging the political parties to unite with the "reactionary feudal monarchy," labeling them "imperialist monsters" who were violating diplomatic norms. The Maoist commander blamed the current situation in Nepal on the monarchy and the RNA, declaring that the "Peoples' War" would destroy the uncivilized monarchy and the reactionary army, and that the USG and British government should not interfere in Nepal.

#### MAOISTS TARGET CIVILIANS AND POLITICIANS

10. In addition to their attacks on security personnel, violence against civilians and politicians also has increased. On August 29, Devendra Raj Kandel, former Minister of State for Home Affairs, was shot and seriously wounded at his residence by suspected Maoists. Police sources said that the rebels used Chinese pistols. The body of a CPN-UML worker, abducted by Maoists on August 31 in the eastern district of Ramechhap, was found on September 2. On that same day, a group of Maoists reportedly severely beat a member of the Nepal Samata Party in Nuwakot District. The urban warfare campaign launched by Maoists against politicians and high-ranking security officials has caused an increase in security presence throughout Nepal. The local press reports that the Maoists have a "hit-list" with over two hundred names on it, causing concern and fear among some officials. Security reportedly is heavy around political party offices as well.

11. On September 3, Maoist cadres killed four civilians, including a female health worker in eastern Ramechhap. Another villager was killed in Sankhuwasabha, after insurgents accused him of being "anti-Maoist."

12. A group of armed Maoists reportedly abducted two Nepal Red Cross Workers in the central district of Myagdi on September 2. They remain missing. Six people, including five teenaged girls, were abducted by Maoists on September 4 in the northeastern district of Dolakha. Their whereabouts are also unknown.

13. On August 31, Maoists killed two civilians and severely beat another in separate incidents. A Village Development Committee (VDC) secretary in Rajbiraj was severely beaten for refusing to donate money, and in Nuwakot, a local villager with previous ties to the Maoist party was murdered by the rebels, who accused him of spying for the security forces. An employee of the Birendra Police Hospital died of gunshot wounds after Maoists attacked him in Kathmandu.

#### ALLEGED MAOIST ARMS SUPPLIERS ARRESTED IN INDIA

14. Police in India reportedly arrested six gang members on September 2 who allegedly were attempting to sell weapons to Maoists from Nepal. According to press accounts, the six were arrested in India while waiting to hand over AK47 rifles and 9mm guns to three Maoists from the central Nepal district of Gulmi. The press quoted police sources as saying that India's Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) has

supplied "huge amounts of arms" to Maoists in western Nepal.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONDEMNS REBELS'  
RETURN TO VIOLENCE  
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15. The international community and local human rights organizations are calling for an end to the Maoists' wave of violence. On August 29, Kofi Annan, United Nations General Secretary, expressed "deep concern" over the upsurge in

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violence, and called upon the rebels to return to dialogue, saying there is "no other alternative." (Note: Maoist Supremo Prachanda reportedly sent an email to Annan thanking him for his concern, and blaming the GON for his party's decision to end the ceasefire. The Maoist Commander reportedly also asked for the UN's help in preventing any future intervention of foreign military in Nepal. End note). A spokesman from the Indian External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi declared that "neither political or economic progress can be achieved by resuming armed conflict," and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said it was a "truly disappointing development."

16. In a statement issued on September 3, Alexander Downer, Australia's Minister For Foreign Affairs, said the Maoists' unilateral decision to end the ceasefire would lead to further "violence and bloodshed," and prolong the suffering of the Nepalese people. Downer said the Maoists' action was a "major step backward."

17. On September 2 the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement expressing concern over the "failure of the peace process," and warned its citizens to refrain, if possible, from any trips to Nepal.

18. Political parties, members of civil society and human rights organizations have condemned the insurgents' return to violence. The Human Rights and Peace Society (HURPES), the Informal Sector Services Center (INSEC), the Human Rights Organization of Nepal, and the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninists (CPN-UML) have issued strong statements decrying the increase in abductions, murders and torture by the Maoists since the ceasefire ended.

MALINOWSKI